Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 07003 091224Z ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 EB-08 NSC-05 INR-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 SP-02 PRS-01 /051 W

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R 091201Z SEP 77 FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2972

CONFIDENTIAL LISBON 7003

DEPT PASS TREASURY FOR SYVRUD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, ECON, PO

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE ESCUDO RATE

REF: LISBON 6915

1. FOLLOWING ARE DOLLAR BUY RATES, IN ESCUDOS, FOR

SELECTED DATES IN 1977:

DATE	RATE
AUGUST 1	38.457
AUGUST 16	38.675
AUGUST 25	38.482
AUGUST 29	39.307
AUGUST 30	39.719
SEPTEMBER 1	40.045
SEPTEMBER 2	40.345
SEPTEMBER 5	40.389
SEPTEMBER 6	40.403
SEPTEMBER 7	40.344
SEPTEMBER 8	40.330

2. DOLLAR BUY RATE PRECEDING COUNCIL OF MINISTER'S DECISION ON AUGUST 25 TO ADOPT CRAWLING PEG FOR ESCUDO WAS IN NEIGHBORHOOD OF 38.5 ESCUDOS/DOLLAR AND HAD CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 LISBON 07003 091224Z

EXPERIENCED ONLY MODEST DEVIATIONS FOR SEVERAL PRECEDING MONTHS. PRESENT RATE THEREFORE REPRESENTS DEPRECIATION ON ORDER OF 4.5 PERCENT, REFLECTING CENTRAL BANK'S DECISION TO ALLOW ESCUDO TO DEPRECIATE RAPIDLY (SEE REFTEL). RATES FOR SEPTEMBER 5 THROUGH 8, HOWEVER, SUGGEST LEVELING OFF. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT EITHER THE CENTRAL BANK CONSIDERED THE RATE OF DEPRECIATION TOO

STEEP AND IS INTERVENING, OR THAT BANK IS YIELDING TO PRESSURE FROM GOP ELEMENTS WHO FAVOR ONLY GRADUAL DECLINE. EMBASSY BELIEVES LATTER HYPOTHESIS MORE LIKELY. CARLUCCI

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

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Control Number: n/a

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event:

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